

amendment does is say that the amount that we transfer to the two retirement funds, the Omaha School Retirement System and the State School Employees Retirement System is counted as state aid toward that 45 percent objective. That's all, nothing more, nothing less. I think over the summer there might be a study by the Education Committee to find other contributions that we make toward that 45 percent objective that are not now counted. This has nothing to do with anything else that you might think or believe should be included. It is intended to address exclusively the dollars that we're changing from HELP over to the two school retirement systems and count those toward the 45 percent funding objective. And I wouldn't even be offering this amendment at this time, but I think that it's fairly clear-cut with regard to the LB 700 funding. The HELP dollars were counted as resources by the local school districts. We counted them, as I understand it, as aid toward that 45 percent objective. This just ensures that when we transfer that money over to retirement programs that we will continue to count them toward the 45 percent objective. Now in fairness, we also contribute other state dollars toward school retirement systems. This has nothing to do with those other contributions. There may be a bill next year that would address that issue, together with other items that ought to be counted. But this simply deals with initiatives, with LB 700, because LB 700 is pending before you. If LB 700 doesn't pass, this doesn't have any effect. If LB 700 passes, this works. I'd simply ask for your support of the amendment.

SPEAKER WITHEM: Thank you, Senator Wickersham. On the Wickersham amendment, Senator Abboud. I do not see Senator Abboud. There are no other lights on. Senator Wickersham, you may close. Closing is waived. The question is, shall the Wickersham amendment be adopted? All in favor vote aye, opposed vote nay. Record.

CLERK: 27 ayes, 0 nays, Mr. President, on the adoption of Senator Wickersham's amendment.

SPEAKER WITHEM: The Wickersham amendment is adopted. Anything further, Mr. Clerk?

CLERK: Mr. President, the next amendment I have to the bill is by Senator Wickersham. Senator, AM3545.